



IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA  
AT CHANDIGARH

142

CRM-M-20215-2025  
Decided on : 21.04.2025

Tarsem Singh @ Soma

. . . Petitioner(s)

Versus

State of Punjab

. . . Respondent(s)

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY VASHISTH**

PRESENT: Mr. Yajur Sharma, Advocate  
for the petitioner(s).

Mr. Amandeep Singh, DAG, Punjab.

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**SANJAY VASHISTH, J. (Oral)**

1. Instant petition, under Section 528 of the BNSS, 2023 (earlier Section 482 Cr.P.C.), has been filed for quashing of the order dated 10.12.2024 (Annexure P-6), passed by Ld. Judicial Magistrate First Class, Amritsar, in proceedings conducted in FIR No.119, dated 10.06.2023, under Section 61 of the Punjab Excise Act, 1914, registered at Police Station Gate Hakima, District Amritsar (Annexure P-1), whereby, after cancelling the bail of the petitioner, non-bailable warrants have been issued against him.

2. Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that after registration of aforementioned FIR, petitioner was granted concession of anticipatory bail by learned Sessions Judge, Amritsar, vide order dated 19.07.2023 (Annexure P-2). Thereafter, charges were framed against the petitioner vide order dated 20.02.2024 and for recording of prosecution evidence, case was adjourned to 10.05.2024.

3. Learned counsel further submits that on the date fixed i.e. 10.05.2024, the Presiding Officer was on leave and the case was put up before the Duty Magistrate, as a result of which, petitioner could not appear before the Presiding Officer, as he was not aware of the same, and notice was issued for 18.07.2024. Counsel submits that on the following date, when petitioner appeared before the same Court, he was informed that the matter had been transferred to another Court. Being an illiterate person, he was not aware of the subsequent proceedings or the particulars of the Court, where the case of the petitioner was transferred. As a result thereof, he again failed to appear before the concerned Court on 18.07.2024.

Besides, learned counsel submits that petitioner had also lost the contact with his counsel and thus, could not appear before the learned Trial Court. Due to which, vide impugned order dated 10.12.2024 (P-6), learned Trial Court while cancelling his bail bonds, issued non-bailable warrants against the petitioner.

Learned counsel, thus, submits that absence of the petitioner was neither intentional nor deliberate, but due to the reasons, as mentioned above.

4. Learned Counsel further submits that now petitioner is ready to join the process of law, however, he be directed to be released on bail, on his surrendering before the Court and thus, be protected from arrest. In case, one opportunity is granted, petitioner undertakes that he would not absent himself in future, without there being prior permission from the Court, and fully cooperate for early disposal of the trial.

5. Notice of motion.

6. Learned State counsel puts an appearance, and opposes the request of the petitioner by submitting that petitioner does not deserve any

sympathy, because, he has misused the concession of bail granted by the Court. Learned State counsel by pointing out the irresponsible conduct of the petitioner, submits that there is every possibility that for the purpose of delaying the trial, he would again be absenting during the proceedings.

7. In number of cases, wherein, accused stopped appearing in criminal cases after being released on bail and thereby compelling the Court to issue non-bailable warrants by cancelling the bail already granted or such accused is declared 'Proclaimed Person'/Proclaimed Offender', after examining the facts, this Court has formulated to apply a uniform method by satisfying itself that such accused would appear before the concerned Court, to enable it to proceed further instead of delaying the proceedings to await the presence of accused.

Intentional or unintentional default of the accused can be dealt with by examining the facts from case to case in which he is involved, and where it is realised that absence or prolonged absence of such accused is intentional to evade the process of law, he/she can be penalized after examining the nature of crime in which he is facing the proceedings and thereupon by imposing some cost amount subject to his/her capacity to pay.

Primary object of every Court is only to examine the commission of crime in question before it, *vis a vis*, the person/accused, who is subjected to such proceedings, and if possible justice be imparted at the earliest without unnecessary delay. It is not expected that undue time would be devoted in securing the presence of absconded accused and also to waste energy by enforcing the special mechanism to arrest such accused.

Considering all such aspects, this Court in the case of ***Ashish Kumar Honda @ Ashish Handa Vs. State of Punjab, 2022 (4) RCR***

*(criminal) 765; Law Finder Doc Id # 20238111* considered similar plea of appearance, expressed at the instance of the accused, who failed to appear before the Court at appropriate time, and observed that:

*“paramount consideration of the Court is to secure presence of accused on each and every date for speeding up the trial for its final conclusion. Already Courts are flooded with so much litigation, resulting in slow pace of work, because of more than one reason. The required energy and manpower be used for expediting the proceedings of the Court, instead of running after the accused persons to get hold of them.”*

Again, this Court has considered the aforementioned similar plea in case *Veena @ Veena Devi v. State of Punjab (CRM-M-2206-2025, decided on 16.01.2025.*

8. I have considered the submissions of both the sides and examined the relevant material available on record. The petitioner has remiss in appearing before the Court due to the reasons already mentioned, and consequently, on 10.12.2024, impugned order cancelling the bail and issuance of non-bailable warrants of arrest, has been passed against him. It also cannot be left unnoticed that as and when the petitioner came to know about the passing of impugned order, he has immediately moved the present petition, showing his inclination to submit himself before the trial Court.

9. In totality of circumstances, I am of the view that the petitioner can be given one chance to appear before the trial Court, so that proceedings may restart and continue in smooth manner. Accordingly, plea of the petitioners is accepted. Impugned order dated 10.12.2024 (P-6) is hereby **set aside** to the extent of issuance of non-bailable warrants against the petitioner, and he is directed to be released on bail, in the eventuality of surrender by him before the trial Court on or before 06.05.2025.

The petitioner shall also furnish fresh bail bonds/surety bonds to

the satisfaction of the trial Court, in case the bail bonds have already been forfeited. Besides, petitioner would also submit specific undertaking/affidavit that he will keep appearing during the proceedings of the trial in future and the proceedings would not be delayed because of their conduct.

However, this order shall be subject to the payment of Rs.10,000/- as costs, to be deposited by the petitioner in an Old Age Home of the area, as may be decided by the learned Trial Court. The Trial Court shall also specify the time frame within which such costs will be required to be deposited, but not more than two weeks, failing which this order would not be of any advantage to the petitioner.

10. **With aforementioned terms, present petition stands disposed of.**

**(SANJAY VASHISTH)  
JUDGE**

**April 21, 2025**

*J.Ram*

*Whether speaking/reasoned: Yes/No*

*Whether Reportable: Yes/No*